



ARBORFIELD GARRISON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT LOCATION (SDL)

We do not have any further progress to report at present. The maps at the link below give a helpful overview of how the development is moving forward.

www.wokingham.gov.uk/major-developments/arborfield-progress-map/

Local events and information

- **Finchampstead voted one of the best places to live**
Some of you will already know that Finchampstead is one of just 15 places in the South East to be named as the best place to live in Britain by The Sunday Times. The list was published on 12 Sunday 2017 - if you missed it you can find out more on the Wokingham Paper website <https://www.wokinghampaper.com/sunday-times-finchampstead/>
- **California Crossroads Tidy Up** - Sunday 2 April 2017
We will be holding our third Tidy Up at the crossroads from 9.30am to 12 noon - please come along and help out with litter picking, weeding, sweeping and other tasks. If you can only spare half an hour that is fine - every little helps. Please wear gloves and bring hand tools if you have them. Refreshments will be provided.
- **The Annual Litter Pick** was held on Sunday 19 March 2017. A huge thank you to all those who turned out on the day to help make the Parish a cleaner and brighter place. Thank you also to our Adopt a Street volunteers and others who litter pick their areas regularly. Our part time Litter Warden is still collecting nearly 100 sacks of litter each month from our roadsides, adding to the litter collection by the Borough Council. Litter really is a big problem.
- **Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust Afternoon Tea** - 29 March 2017 from 2.30 to 4pm.
This event is at the Finchampstead Sports Club - behind the Memorial Hall. Tea and cakes, raffle and bring and buy - all funds raised go to the upkeep of St James' Churchyard.
- **The Finchampstead Society Local History Archive** - Thursday 6 April 2017
The Archive is open on the first Thursday of each month from 2 - 4pm at the Finchampstead Library at the FBC Centre. Discover a wonderful collection of history including maps and photographs. Just drop in to look at the Archive.
- **Spring Community Fun Day** - Thursday 6 April 2017 from 11am to 3pm
This Fun Day at the Arborfield Community Centre, Princess Marina Drive will include Basil's Barnyard Buddies Farm, arts and crafts, an easter egg hunt, other stalls and activities, and refreshments.
- **Easter Treasure Trail and other activities**
Dinton Pastures Country Park has lots of activities including a free Easter Treasure Trail on 14 - 16 April. Visit www.dinton-pastures.co.uk for more information.
- **Relaxing activities for adults at Finchampstead Library**
Enjoy some creative colouring, browse the photo books, try a jigsaw puzzle or another game at these free sessions held every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon. Adults with learning difficulties and dementia sufferers and their carers are welcome at all sessions.



Councillor vacancy

Geoff Markham, our Vice Chair and also former Chair of our Finance and General Purposes Committee, and our Amenities Committee will be moving out of the area very soon and is therefore resigning from the Council. Geoff has been with the Council for over 15 years and has contributed a great deal to the Council and the Finchampstead community in this time. Very best wishes to Geoff and his family for the future.

There are certain procedures we have to follow but we will be advertising the vacancy in due course - if you would like to find out more about the role please get in touch with the Clerk - details below.

The Big Valley Ramble

The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust is holding a 'Big Valley Ramble' on Sunday 23 April 2017. This 12 mile route starts at Sandhurst and passes across Wildmoor Heath, up around Broadmoor and back through Ambarrow Court and Horseshoe Lakes. You'll see spectacular scenery, a surprising variety of habitats and visit the protected wildlife haven and iron age hill fort at Caesar's Camp. Booking is essential - visit www.bvct.org.uk

Finchampstead Neighbourhood Action Group

The next meeting of the NAG is on **Tuesday 4 April 2017 at 7.30pm** in Finchampstead Library. If you have views or ideas about how to make Finchampstead an even better place to live and work in why not come along to the meeting and find out how you can get involved.

The Me2 Club

The Me2 Club is one of the many organisations which Finchampstead Parish Council supported with a grant in 2016/17. The Me2 Club enables children and young people with additional needs and disabilities (aged 5-19 years) throughout the Wokingham Borough to attend a mainstream activity of their choice. The Club supports young people in a wide range of activities including uniformed groups, ice-skating, swimming, sports, drama and dance sessions. The young people we support struggle to access these activities because of their needs, resulting in social isolation, lack of confidence and self-esteem.

In the last year, 129 volunteers have supported 94 young people to take part in mainstream activities they would not otherwise have been able to access. To do this Me2 Club recruits, trains, screens and supports volunteers before they are carefully matched with a young person. The volunteers support our young people by getting to know them, understanding their specific needs and enabling them to attend and enjoy their weekly activity.

If you would like to find out more, or to help support the work of the Club with fundraising or by volunteering you can get in touch via the website www.me2club.org.uk

FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

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